

H1-B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANTS

Grantee: North Central Texas Council of Governments

Round: 3 **Region:** 4

Grant Amount: \$2,800,000

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Duration of Grant: November 15, 2000 to November 14, 2002

Population Served: 455 people total: 80 people as Secondary Industrial Technology Teachers and 375 people in high-tech occupations. Open to all current workers, unemployed, and underemployed individuals. Special outreach to low income individuals, individuals with a disability, veterans, offenders, and racial/ethnic minorities.

Geographic Area Served: Fourteen county region consisting of Collin, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, and Wise Counties.

**Targeted Industries/
Jobs/Skills** Targets teacher certification for high-tech occupations; targets emerging occupations in high-tech fields, such as computer network administrators, computer programmers, computer support specialists, computer systems analysts, database administrators, electronic commerce specialist, computer security specialist, multimedia specialists, web masters, telecommunications specialist

Uniqueness of Proposal: Provides training for technology education teachers to prepare youth for high-tech occupations to bridge current and future skills gap. Also provides training for high-tech occupations, with anticipated wage replacement rates of \$20 per hour (\$41,600 per year) for those who successfully complete program and certification

Partnerships: North Central Texas Workforce Board; Collin County Community College District; Southern Methodist University; North Texas Human Resource Group

THE NEED: North Central Texas employment is concentrated in the Manufacturing, Services and Trade sectors, which represent more than two-thirds of the total employment in 1997, and continues to expand. Manufacturing in the region is geared towards telecommunications and high technology industries. It is projected that by the year 2010, one of the areas known as the "Telecom Corridor" will add 40,000 jobs and be the second largest employment center in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex behind only downtown Dallas.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

The North Central Texas Technology Training project is intended to provide both a short-term

solution for high-tech companies facing labor shortages and a long-term solution for bridging the gap between the needs of employers and the skills of the American workforce.